

OPEN SPACE LAND FUND

Department Overview

The Open Space Land Fund was created by the County Commission to meet the desire of the community to maintain Open Spaces in Gallatin County. In FY 00 the Commission appointed the Open Space Land Board to recommend options to maintain the rural appeal of the county. The Board requested the County Commission set aside budget authority to fund a full-time executive. The Commission agreed and has funded this position for 6 years.

As part of the Open Space Program the County was successful in receiving authority to create an Open Land license plate. In FY 04 the county began receiving revenues generated by the sale of Open Land license plates. These funds now fund the operational costs associated with Open Land Activities.

In 2000 and again in 2004 the citizens were asked to authorize the county to sell up to \$10 Million dollars in General Obligation Bonds, for conservation of agricultural and natural resource lands, the conservation of water quality and quantity, and to provide recreational opportunities. The Voters overwhelmingly approved the 2 requests for a total of \$20 million.

The Gallatin County Open Lands Board serves in an advisory capacity to the County Commission by reviewing and making recommendations as to the expenditure of the Open Space Bond funds. The County has sold two bond issues for Open Lands. The first in 2002 was for \$3.8 million. The second sold in 2003 was for \$4.0 million. The final sale of \$2.2 million will occur in FY 06. The County will also sell bonds from the second voter approved \$10 million in FY 2006.

The Boards goals are to preserve open spaces, agriculture lands, riparian areas, water quality, recreational parks, trails, and wildlife corridors. The Board is composed of 15 members appointed by the county commissioners.

Bond funds were used for the purchase of the 100 acre Regional Park for \$2.3 million. Some additional bond funds have been used for required interim administrative and maintenance needs on the Regional Park.

In FY 2005 the Commission created the County Board of Park Commissioners to plan and administer parks and recreation in Gallatin County. The Park Commission will be taking over the planning and administration of the Regional Park and other park and recreation activities and facilities in Gallatin County. In FY 2006 \$10,500 was transferred to the County Park Fund for the 1st year operating expenses of the County Park Commission.

Additional expenditures from the Open Space Bond Fund will be budgeted and used to complete a master plan for parks and recreation implementation and administration in Gallatin County in FY 2006.

Department Goals

- To conserve farm and ranch land.
 - To conserve wildlife habitat.
 - To protect and preserve the quality and quantity of water resources. To preserve scenic resources.
 - To manage growth and development.
 - To maximize the potential for recreation.
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Recent Accomplishments

- Sold two bond issues, one for \$3.8 million and 2nd for \$4.0 million.
- Voters' authorized a second bond issue of \$10 million in November 2004.
- Open Space license plate with \$25 going into the fund.

RECREATION AND OTHER ACTIVITY

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Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Year End Est.					
	Actual FY 2005	Final FY 2006	/ Actual FY 2006	Baseline FY 2007	Request FY 2007	Preliminary FY 2007
Personnel	\$ 63,187	\$ 66,010	\$ 62,414	\$ 67,264	\$ 94,390	\$ 71,081
Operations	24,853	326,841	17,802	381,243	389,368	412,677
Debt Service	562,160	568,960	568,960	1,065,330	1,065,330	1,065,330
Capital Outlay	3,904,904	5,002,375	1,801,732	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,002,375
Transfers Out	-	10,500	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 4,555,104	\$ 5,974,686	\$ 2,450,908	\$ 6,513,838	\$ 6,549,088	\$ 6,551,463

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Revenue Funds	88,040	405,726	80,216	448,507	483,758	486,133
Debt Service Funds	562,160	568,960	568,960	1,065,330	1,065,330	1,065,330
Capital Project Funds	3,904,904	5,000,000	1,801,732	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 4,555,104	\$ 5,974,686	\$ 2,450,908	\$ 6,513,838	\$ 6,549,088	\$ 6,551,463

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 581,198	\$ 588,706	\$ 568,960	\$ 1,065,330	\$ 1,065,330	\$ 1,065,330
Non-Tax Revenues	260,046	3,180,500	339,154	3,180,000	180,000	180,000
Cash Reappropriated	3,713,860	2,205,480	1,542,795	2,268,507	5,303,758	5,306,133
Total	\$ 4,555,104	\$ 5,974,686	\$ 2,450,908	\$ 6,513,838	\$ 6,549,088	\$ 6,551,463

Department Personnel

Personnel Summary

No	FT/PT	Title	FTE
1	Full-Time	Open Lands Coordinator	1.00
1	Part-Time	Administrative Support	0.25
Total Program FTE			1.25

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2007 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- No changes were approved.

Operations

- The Open Land Operational Activities are fully funded through the sale of Motor Vehicle Plates throughout the State of Montana. No County tax support is required. The significant increase in Operations comes from the decision to set aside three-years operating expenses to assure ongoing operations. Upon reaching the set aside goal excess funds will be made available for activities associated with maintaining the County's Open space and agriculture heritage.

Capital

- Capital Reserve \$2,375, Open Space Acquisition \$5,000,000.

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established a set of overarching goals for the county government. Listed below are the County Commission's goals, followed by the methods by which the Open Space Lands Fund is striving to fulfill those goals.

Exceptional Customer Service

- Provides an incentive based alternative for landowners
- Maintains or improves the quality of life for residents and visitors of Gallatin County by conserving important agricultural and natural resource lands and providing increased access to recreation.

Be Model for Excellence in Government

- The Open Lands Program is self funded through alternative funding sources requiring no general fund allocations.
- All bond revenue from the first and second authorized \$10 million bond initiatives are matched with funds from outside sources making the value of the local tax dollar spent on land conservation matched 4:1 by outside sources.
- Balance activities through the Open Lands Program with other county needs and departmental objectives.

Improve Communications

- Educate community on available program.
- Completed inventory of conservation lands in Gallatin County
- Developed presentations and information for other Counties in land conservation and incentive based planning techniques.

To be the Employer of Choice

RECREATION AND OTHER ACTIVITY

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WORKLOAD INDICATORS/PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Workload Indicators

Indicator	Actual FY 2004	Actual FY 2005	Estimate FY 2006	Projected FY 2007
1 . Easement Projects	6	3	4	4
2 . Parks and Recreation Projects	-	-	1	1
3 . Program Development and Outreach (\$\$\$)	\$ 5,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
4 . Bond/Levy Authorization Campaign	1	-	-	1
5 . License Plates sold	7,357	6,984	7,000	\$ 7,000
6 . Legislative Appropriations	-	-	1	2
7 . Conservation Legislative Issues	-	15	-	15
8 . New Program Implementation	0	0	0	2
9 . Critical Lands Analysis (Creation and Update)	0	0	0	1

Performance Measures

Measure	Actual FY 2004	Actual FY 2005	Estimate FY 2006	Projected FY 2007
1 . Projects Reviewed (number)	6	3	4	5
2 . Projects Approved (number)	5	5	4	5
3 . Projects Completed (number)	4	2	4	4
4 . Acres Conserved (acres)	1,030	12,006	12,000	5,000
5 . Development Right Value (\$\$\$)	\$ 4,370,000	\$ 10,905,000	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 5,000,000
6 . County Contribution (\$\$\$)	\$ 2,495,050	\$ 2,237,500	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
7 . Successful Bond Campaign	-	1	-	1
8 . Presentations and consultations	5	10	10	5
9 . Bills Lobbied, tracked or testified on				
10 . Bills with successful outcome				

Commentary